

STATE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL (SIAC)

May Meeting Summary



Date | time May 27, 2020 | 10:00 a.m. | **Meeting Location** virtually via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner of Department for Community Based Services & SIAC Vice Chair

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & UPDATES

Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner, Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) & SIAC Vice Chair, welcomed members/alternates to the meeting. Ms. Caywood provided an update for DCBS and reported Kentucky has been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), a program which provides assistance to households with children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals while schools are closed due to COVID-19. P-EBT provides a benefits card families can use to replace school meals while schools are closed. The P-EBT benefit is a one-time benefit with eligible households to receive up to \$313.50 per eligible student. [More information is available at <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/Documents/pebtfqa.pdf> and <https://education.ky.gov/federal/SCN/Pages/P-EBT-Information.aspx>] Ms. Caywood thanked the Kentucky Department of Education for their partnership in the state plan and its federal award. Ms. Caywood reported DCBS is working on childcare reopening. DCBS Division of Child Care worked with DPH and Office of Inspector General Division of Regulated Child Care as well as the Governor's Office of Early Childhood to develop recommendations that were ultimately accepted by the Governor's Office and presented in a press conference last week. Ms. Caywood reported that Kentucky received additional childcare funds through the CARES Act and distributed around 32 million dollars in childcare funds to childcare providers across the state.

Denitta Mercier, Parent Member, reported there was an issue brought to her attention – adults with disabilities feel like they are not getting the best benefits. Ms. Mercier asked how we can work together to get those with disabilities the best benefits possible. Ms. Mercier reported she has not heard from the RIAC Parent Representatives, and she issued a challenge to the Local Resource Coordinators to email her updates. Ms. Mercier reported the parent retreat will be July 25. Ms. Mercier provided an update about Barren River RIAC activities, including intentions for the emergency funding related to COVID-19 that they were awarded.

Rachel Bingham, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), reported AOC has started making changes and updates for in-person services that goes into effect on June 1. This information is posted on the Court of Justice website [see <https://kycourts.gov/Pages/default.aspx>]. AOC continues to offer services virtually. Ms. Bingham reported the Foster Care Review Board has continued their required six-month reviews, and there has been an increase in interested parties. Ms. Bingham reported their building is closed for all big meetings, including SIAC, the rest of 2020.

Damien Sweeney, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), reported KDE has released COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools Supporting Students and Staff Wellness [see <https://education.ky.gov/comm/Pages/COVID-19-Reopening-Resources.aspx>]. Dr. Sweeney reported KDE worked on the resources with DBHDID, including Dr. Robbins and Miriam Silman, and Dr. Judi Vanderhaar. Dr. Sweeney reported he and Ms. Silman have also been presenting to different advisory panels about stress and the impact of COVID-19 on students and staff, and how schools, school districts, adults, educators, and etc. can help relieve some of that stress. Dr. Sweeney reported Senate Bill 158 passed, and it is going to change graduation requirements.

Vestena Robbins, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), introduced Rashaad Abdur-Rahman as a new Executive Advisor within the DBHDID Commissioner's Office. Dr. Robbins stated Rashaad has a wealth of experience and expertise in many areas, but his particular focus will be on health equity and strategic practices to reduce disparities. Dr. Robbins reported he is active in many Cabinet initiatives as well as already connecting with AOC initiatives. Dr. Robbins reported the Governor's Office had reached out requesting a video focused on young children who may be experiencing anxiety as their parents return to work. Dr. Robbins reported Ms. Miriam and others in DBHDID and SIAC were able to assist with the video, which was featured during last Friday's press conference. Dr. Robbins stated she appreciates the Governor's Office and the Governor in recognizing the mental health

impact of COVID and giving it much needed attention. Dr. Robbins reported DBHDID has been holding weekly calls with the Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC); they are open and providing services, both virtually and in-person. The CMHCs have indicated a reduction in referrals and access, in particular children and families. Dr. Robbins reported DBHDID continues to monitor rates of suicides and overdoses. Dr. Robbins reported the Social & Emotional Health & Well-being Standing Committee is moving forward with a video production to support the workforce resiliency. The video is geared toward educators and human services personnel. They will distribute it as soon as it is produced. Dr. Robbins invited anyone interested to join the Social & Emotional Health & Well-being Standing Committee immediately following SIAC; Amy Swann will be sharing the latest Kentucky Kids Count data and talking about indicators we might consider for social emotional health and well-being, which is part of the Task Force's recommendations.

Kristen Martin, Department for Public Health (DPH), reported they are continuing to serve families via telehealth. Ms. Martin reported DPH has partnered with the Division of Childcare to help childcare centers reopen. Ms. Martin reported she and DPH's Social and Emotional Consultant, Emily Keely, will be co-presenting with Stephanie Sikes-Jones, Barb Green, and Laura Beard at the System of Care Academy on Family Thrive. Ms. Martin reported success in overcoming barriers in Floyd County for the HEART Program. Ms. Martin reported they have partnered with ARC and Mountain Comprehensive Care Center.

William Heffron, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), reported they continue to use teleconferencing when possible, and they have seen an increase in family engagement because of the teleconferencing.

Judy Theriot, Department for Medicaid Services (DMS), reported DMS has tried to focus on three specific goals: enroll anybody that needs to be enrolled; make sure providers receive payment and increase the number of providers; and ensure members have access to care. Dr. Theriot reported they are enrolling about 8000 members per week. Dr. Theriot reported access to care is going very well because telehealth expanded. Dr. Theriot reported DMS is partnering with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) by making wellness calls, especially to those who are high risk.

Jonathan Boden, Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN), reported their staff are continuing to telecommute. OCSHCN is offering telehealth services for therapy clinics as well as neurology and Autism Spectrum Disorder clinics.

Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN, Family Organization Representative, reported concern for our children and families due to increased stressors during the pandemic. Ms. Logsdon thanked KDE for the weekly letter they issue to keep everyone informed. Ms. Logsdon reported she has webinar resources to share and will send those to Lea Taylor for email distribution. Ms. Logsdon will also be sharing NAMI of Kentucky resources.

Callie Cartmell, Youth Representative, reported one of the Kentucky Youth MOVE Members is helping host a National call tomorrow. Ms. Cartmell reported there were a lot of Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings available through ZOOM, but she voiced concern if these would continue with in-person services beginning to open.

Melissa Goins and Mary Ann Jennings, Family Resource & Youth Services Centers (FRYSC), provided an update jointly, as this is Ms. Goins' first day back from leave. Ms. Goins reported they are allowing flexibility with their FRYSC to meet needs. Ms. Goins provided examples of how FRYSC are meeting needs in the communities. Ms. Jennings reported the FRYSC are continuing their summer programming, including virtually. The FRYSC are open for business and serving and connecting with families even during the summer.

Cora McNabb, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), reported this is the 100 year celebration of the VR system. OVR is working to change their celebration events into virtual opportunities to boost staff morale. Ms. McNabb reported at a national level, there will be a celebration on June 2. Ms. McNabb reported their staff continue to assist with Unemployment Insurance claims. They are working on a plan to transfer their staff back to OVR. Ms. McNabb reported they have a RETAIN grant through the Department of Labor, and that grant has seen increased activity.

Missy Brownson Ross, Council on Post-secondary Education (CPE), reported CPE's work with Seniors has increased as they assist with transition that next phase of life. Ms. Brownson Ross reported staff are hosting regular web chats, ZOOM or Teams meetings with students. Ms. Brownson Ross reported in addition to academic-related questions, they also discuss social and emotional things such as resilience.

BUSINESS ITEMS

❖ Review of April Meeting Summary

William Heffron made motion to approve. **Judy Theriot** – second to the motion. Motion carried.

• New Staff to the Disabilities Standing Committee

Elizabeth Caywood, SIAC Vice Chair, thanked Amber Collins, Administrative Office of the Courts, for volunteering to take on the Staff role for the Disabilities Standing Committee.

- **Regional Interagency Council (RIAC) Funding Opportunity Update from Vanessa Brewer** SIAC Vice Chair announced this would be moved to later in the agenda or to the May meeting to ensure we had adequate time for our presenters.

KENTUCKY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) NETWORK

Margaret McGladrey, Ph.D., Director of Program Capacity and Support, Kentucky CASA Network; and Andrea Bruns, State Director, Kentucky CASA Network, presented an introduction to the Kentucky CASA Network (KCN) as well as the intersection of behavioral health needs and child abuse and neglect in Kentucky. The KCN mission is to support the development, growth, continuation, and strengthening of CASA programs in Kentucky. CASA programs recruit and train volunteers to advocate on behalf of children who have come into the court system as a result of dependency, neglect, or abuse. CASA programs provide screened, trained, and qualified community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children and youth who are before the court as a result of abuse or neglect and living at home or in out of home care. Ms. McGladrey requested SIAC sign a Letter of Commitment (LOC) for KCN as they apply for a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. A draft template had been emailed to SIAC Members/Designees proposing KCN staff will: participate in monthly SIAC meetings and standing committee meetings; provide CASA updates as appropriate to SIAC, RIAC peer leaders/chairs, standing committees, etc.; share information about CASA trainings of interest and provide information about SIAC and system of care on KCN website; and collaborate on statewide outreach and awareness efforts to improve services and supports for abused and neglected children with behavioral health needs. Tena Robbins, DBHDID, proposed a language change to children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Dr. Robbins made a motion to accept the LOC with that language change. Rhonda Logsdon – second to the motion. Ms. Caywood asked if there were any objections; there were none. Motion carried. A copy of the PowerPoint will be available [see Meeting Handouts].

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner of Department for Community Based Services & SIAC Vice Chair, requested ideas for future agenda items to be emailed to Lea.Taylor@ky.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner of Department for Community Based Services & SIAC Vice Chair, asked for any public comment. Carol Cecil, Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children (KPFC), reported that in partnership with DBHDID, with the SOC FIVE grant, they are creating 2000 Healthy at Home Family Activity Kits consisting of art activities, journals, construction paper, scissors, chalk, etc. The idea of the kits is to help families be creative during their time at home and reduce stress as many use art as a coping skill. The kits will be shipped to Community Mental Health Centers and DCBS offices for distribution to families across the state.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location to be determined. Will likely be a virtual meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Cora McNabb made motion to adjourn. **Rachel Bingham** – second to the motion.

Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner of Department for Community Based Services & SIAC Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Meeting via Zoom immediately after SIAC.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

TASK:	RESPONSIBLE PARTY:

IN ATTENDANCE

Members/Designees:

Elizabeth Caywood, DCBS
Rachel Bingham, AOC
Denitta Mercier, Parent Representative
Callie Cartmell, Youth Representative
Vestena Robbins, DBHDID
Judy Theriot, DMS
Mary Ann Jennings, FRYSC
Missy Brownson Ross, CPE

Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN
Jonathan Borden, OCSHCN
Bill Heffron, DJJ
Melissa Goins, FRYSC
Damien Sweeney, KDE
Cora McNabb, OVR
Kristen Martin, DPH

Staff: Lea Taylor, SIAC Administrator, DBHDID; Lori Ramage, Administrative Specialist, DBHDID; Vanessa Brewer, RIAC Administrator, DBHDID

Partial Guest List:

Anne Embry, LifeSkills
Susan Robinson, NorthKey
Janice Johnston, DBHDID
Amanda Waldroup
Shirley Gardstein, Cumberland River RIAC
Brittany Roberts, KPFC
Kathy Mason, Bluegrass RIAC
Laura Edwards, DBHDID
Beck Whipple, DBHDID
Michelle Kilgore, DBHDID
Kellie Smith, KY-SPIN
Margaret McGladrey, KCN
Whitney Allen
D. Sauber
Johnny Collett, HDI
Kate Overberg Wagoner, DBHDID
Kimberly Griffin
Rashaad Abdur-Rahman, DBHDID
Sarah Kidder

Diane Gruen-Kidd, DBHDID
Dee Dee Ward, DBHDID
Troy Bell, AOC
Christie Penn, DBHDID
Amy Swann
Kathryn Tillett, KDE
Beth Jordan, DBHDID
Andrea Bruns, KCN
Shelly Steiner, DBHDID
Leslie Hoffman, DMS
Liz Moreland, Bluegrass RIAC
Christina Bronner
Emily Keely, DPH
Jesse Dillow, TAYLRD
Katie Scheuer Hopper, Lifeskills
Lynette Ponder, DCBS
Randa Bush, New Vista

Amber Collins, AOC
David Crowley
Angela Morris, AOC
LeAnn Magre, Wellcare
Whitney Hayse, P&A
Miriam Silman, DBHDID
Carol Cecil, KPFC
Clay Barber, DBHDID
Brittany Barber, DBHDID
Joy Varney, DBHDID
Liz McKune
Stephanie Sikes-Jones, DBHDID
David Hanna
Jenean Hampton
Judy (last name not provided)
Kenny Stewart
Michelle Sawyers, AOC
Sarah Bowling

MEETING HANDOUTS

Any handouts referenced in the meeting summary above will be available on the SIAC website at <http://dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/siac-summaries.aspx>. Under **Handouts**, use the drop down to select this meeting date.